

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, June 20, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report on heavy rain mainly in the Kansai region today. All commercial networks led with reports on the Japanese national soccer team's historic win over Colombia in the FIFA World Cup in Russia yesterday.

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. withdraws from UN Human Rights Council

NHK reported this morning that U.S. Ambassador to UN Haley announced at the State Department on Tuesday that the U.S. will withdraw from the UN Human Rights Council on the grounds that the council has "chronic bias against Israel" and that there are more resolutions denouncing Israel than North Korea and Syria. Ambassador Haley also reportedly said that the U.S. will rejoin the council if reforms are made. Noting that the U.S. withdrew from UNESCO last October on the grounds that the organization is "anti-Israel," the network said the U.S. has once again demonstrated its pro-Israel stance.

- [Japan, Philippines agree sanctions on N. Korea should remain in place](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Japan auto industry pitches U.S. job creation amid Trump trade jab](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Iron, Steel Federation chief voices concern on protectionist steel, auto tariffs](#) (Asahi)
- [Opposition resists casino-related legislation due to unresolved issues](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Komeito shifts to unanimous support for casino resort bill](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan's demand for foreign workers may soften immigration policy, albeit slowly](#) (The Japan Times)

- [Editorial: Sever negative chain reaction of retaliatory U.S.-China sanctions](#) (The Japan News)

SECURITY

- [Japan to disprove China's claim to extended continental shelf](#) (Sankei)

POLITICS

Diet session to be extended 32 days

NHK reported this afternoon that the Lower House Plenary Session has approved an extension of the current Diet session for 32 days until July 22. The network said the LDP and the Komeito requested the extension in order to pass legislation on labor reform, casino resorts, and the Public Offices Election Law. The network said the ordinary Diet session will be extended for the first time since 2015, when lawmakers were engaged in deliberations on the controversial security legislation.

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 19, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan's current Diet session to be extended until July 22](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Schedule of major political events for next few months](#) (Asahi)
- [LDP heavyweight Takeshita on factions, Abenomics, constitution, diplomacy, presidential race](#) (Bungeishunju)
- [Cartoon: IRs](#) (Akahata)

OPINION POLLS

- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)

